

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Steve Moore)
MEETING DATE: November 17, 2004

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: **Triennial Review of the San Francisco Bay Basin Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan)** - Adoption of Resolution and Prioritized List of Basin Plan Issues

CHRONOLOGY: May 2004 – Public Notice of Triennial Review
June 2004 – Public Workshop
Sept. 2004 – Draft Report and Draft Prioritized List of Basin Plan Issues

DISCUSSION: The Basin Plan is the primary regulatory document for the Water Board, establishing water quality standards for the San Francisco Bay Region and describing permits, policies, monitoring, and other programs designed to meet the standards. The tentative resolution and attached proposed prioritized list of Basin Plan issues (Appendix A) and triennial review staff report (Appendix B) address federal and state requirements for our periodic review of the Basin Plan.

The triennial review sets the Basin Plan work plan for the next three years by prioritizing Basin Plan issues. The triennial review provides the opportunity to identify portions of the Basin Plan that need to be updated or modified to improve the efficiency and environmental protection associated with permitting and other programs. It also affords the opportunity to assist in the prioritization process. It addresses all potential Basin Plan amendments except Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), which are prioritized according to a different process and program. In this Region, we have dedicated resources to fund less than two staff for Basin Planning, but other internal and external resources have been secured to augment the dedicated resources. This is reflected in the proposed prioritized list.

As shown in the chronology above, we have involved stakeholders since the beginning of the review process. Appendix D contains comment letters received during the process that provided direction to staff in developing 32 proposed Basin Plan issues, ranking criteria, and scores for prioritizing issues to potentially develop into Basin Plan amendments. Ranking criteria included whether the project implemented the Water Board's mission of protecting beneficial uses of waters, whether staff or external resources had already been dedicated to a specific issue, the complexity of the project, any controversy associated with the project, and whether the issue would make the Basin Plan more user-friendly for both staff and the public.

Based on this stakeholder involvement, a draft report and list of prioritized Basin Plan issues was prepared and circulated to interested parties on September 24, 2004 (Public Notice in Appendix C). After a 30-day comment period, three comment letters were received (Appendix E). Responses to comments are included as Appendix F. The comments were generally supportive of this planning process.

Top planning priorities are to continue existing collaborative projects, and to make non-regulatory updates to make the Basin Plan more current and useful.

We believe we have provided a transparent and inclusive process for developing the work plan for non-TMDL Basin Plan issues over the next three years, and prepared a prioritization for those issues that appropriately reflects both the needs of the Board and the public.

**RECOMMEN-
DATION:**

Adopt the Tentative Resolution

APPENDICES:

- A. Tentative Resolution and List of Prioritized Basin Plan Issues
- B. Triennial Review Staff Report
- C. Public Notice, September 24, 2004
- D. Comment Letters, Received by June 18, 2004
- E. Comment Letters, Received by October 25, 2004
- F. Response to Comments, November 2, 2004

FILE NO.

1591.00 (SMM)